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No. II.

IMPROVED DOUBLE BEE-HIVE.

The SILVER CERES MEDAL *was this session presented to Mr. J.* MILTON, 10, *Great Marylebone-street, for his Double Bee-hive. The following communication has been received on the subject, and a model of the Hive has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

London Apiarian Repository, 175, Strand,
March 29, 1823.

SIR,

BEING desirous to submit to the judgment and opinion of the Society of Arts, in the hope of their approbation, my improved hive for bees, I beg the favour of you to present the accompanying model for their inspection, to which I take the liberty to add the following remarks, from my own practical experience. I have read with much pleasure Mr. Espinasse's valuable and instructive Essay on the Management of Bees, and his objections to the possibility of taking the honey without destroying the bees; or, if it was practicable, of any general benefit to result from it: but I hope that in some respect I may be able to obviate that objection, and to promote the views of the Society, by my improvement in the construction of the double-topped hive. The hives in use at the present time are subject to the following objections:—the difficulty of hiving the bees; the admission of cold air in winter from the openings; the risk in removing the glasses and disturbing the bees; as well as the apparatus being too expensive to be purchased but by few. As the great object which the Society wish to attain is a method of procuring honey from the bees, without having recourse to the necessity of smothering them, I presume to hope, the hive now presented to the inspection of the Society is so constructed that the honey may be taken without destroying or even disturbing the bees. It is composed of the best unthrashed straw, the size of the hive is ten inches in height and thirteen inches in diameter in the clear: in the upper round, within, is attached a small straw band, supporting a circular board thirteen inches across, to which is affixed a fifteen inch circular board, both of which are prepared with openings suitable to the size of the glasses in which the bees are intended to work, when fixed for that purpose; or a small straw hive, to hold about ten pounds of honey, might be placed over the openings instead of the glasses; by this means the honey may be taken by degrees, without taking the lives of the insects who gather it. To hive a swarm in the double topped hive, the process is in the usual way, but taking care to secure the top board by adjusting the thumb screw, to prevent the bees from ascending when they are hiving. The hive should be brought into the apiary in the evening, the clear glass hives placed on the upper board, taking care to place each glass over its respective opening; let the glasses be stopped round with lime; adjust the thumb-screw, and turn the board, to enable the bees to ascend; cover these glasses with a straw hive, and leave them for a few days untouched; nothing will then be required but to take away the glass hives when they are filled (in doing which, it will be unnecessary to turn the board to exclude the bees). Hives, in a favourable season, will be found full of combs and honey in twenty days. A hive can support four glasses, each holding two pounds; and twice filled in a good season would produce sixteen pound of honey and wax, leaving a sufficient supply in the straw hive for the support of the bees in the winter. The honey thus obtained would be of the very finest quality, and perfectly free from the young brood.

From the use of these hives the bees are under the immediate inspection of the owner, and may be managed with the least possible difficulty, as they require no particular attention more than the common ones: and, with the highest deference to the opinion of the Society, I am prepared to show, and I beg to assure them, that I have kept bees in all the various hives now in use, and that the swarms in the double-topped hives which I have deprived of honey, by means of glasses, twice last year, are as strong now, and healthy, and in every respect equal to any of my other stocks. I have also received the assurance of those bee masters whom I have supplied with these hives during the last three years, of the benefit to be derived from them, and the advantage they are calculated to produce.

With respect to the objection of the price of my hive being beyond the reach of the poorer classes, I beg to observe, that the price of my hives, as well as the simple method of management, will allow the cottager to avail himself of the use of them, and thereby enable him to bring to market honey and wax of a much finer quality, and earlier in the year, than from the hives hitherto used in the common form.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.
JOHN MILTON.

CERTIFICATE.

Sir, Cropney, February 20, 1824.

I think the double-topped hive fully answered. I took from it four glasses of honey containing about three pounds each; and in a favourable season, I have no doubt the bees would have sufficient left to support them. As it is, I am obliged to feed them, but I reckon that six pounds of honey will be sufficient for that purpose; and those stocks from which none has been taken, will not have more than enough to keep them, and will probably want a little feeding before they begin to work. So that in the most unfavourable season (which I suppose the last has been), six pounds of the best honey may be obtained, from each hive, by means of the glasses, and the bees be kept in as flourishing a state as if none had been taken.

I am, Sir,
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. J. Milton. J. Ballard.

No. 10, Great Marylebone-street,
Sir, May 9, 1826.

In compliance with your letter, I respectfully forward to the Society the model of my invented *double* or revolving top bee-hive; and the under stated dimensions* are what

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* Fourteen inches diameter in the clear, seven inches in height. It is essential that the straw should be thick in the coils.

I use, and find them most advantageous: you will see that by making ***three holes, all*** within the half of a circle, one glass may be taken off at a time. I do not consider this any advantage, but only in case one of the glasses is filled and the others not.

I am, Sir,
&c. &c. &c.
JOHN MILTON.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

Fig. 1.

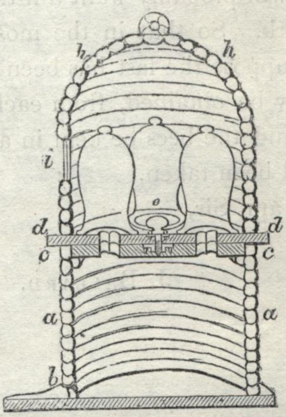

Fig. 3.

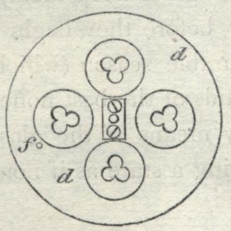

Fig. 2.

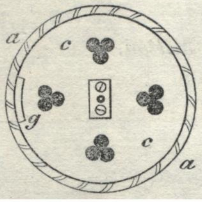

Fig. 1 shows the hive in section. *a a* the body of the hive, *b* the entrance, *c c* the top, which is a round board nailed in its place, shown also in fig. 2; *d d* another board, shown separate in fig. 3; it is held to the other by a central screw *e*, on which it turns, but its motion is limited by the check-pin *f*, fig. 3, which goes through the board and enters the channel *g*, fig. 2, so that when the pin is at one end, the holes through the two boards exactly coincide, and when moved to the other end the communication is cut off. Over these holes are put four bell-glasses, three of which are shown in the section, and four circles mark their place in fig. 3, and over all there is put the cover *h h*; it has a small window at *i*. When the glasses are full the board may be turned, to shut the communication, and empty ones put in their place; also, if needful, food can be given them by means of these glasses, instead of their honey.

No. III.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. THACKERAY, of Chester, respecting his Plantations.

SIR, Chester, November 5, 1825.

I TAKE this opportunity of mentioning, that I have this week sent from Runcorn to Llanarmon, in Denbighshire, above one hundred bushels of acorns, having sowed and dibbled, many years ago, near one hundred and thirty bushels.

The plantations for which I obtained the three gold medals of your Society have been annually *pruned* and thinned; and some of the larch growing at Gelli Gynan have been sold for ten shillings a single tree, and one, which is particularly luxuriant, has been valued at fifteen shillings. Most people consider a tree, when once planted, as done with, though, as every experienced planter knows, the progress and products of trees, like those of other plants, may be greatly increased by pruning and thinning. The